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AUG 20 2004

### IN THE SPECIFICATION

Please replace paragraph 1 on page 1 with the following paragraph:

OFFICIAL

#### LINK NAVIGATION METHOD

##### Background of the Invention

Knowledge of a person's personal social relationships is extremely useful for many reasons. If one knows that they and a stranger have a common friend or colleague, they can approach this new person with significant common ground and a strong reference. One can also use the knowledge of another's social relationships to find particular sorts of expertise. For example, if a first user was looking for help with particular type of technical patent, they could look up similar sorts of patents, determine the inventors and then see if any of the inventors were either close to them, or close to someone to whom they were close.

Changes relative to the previous version of the paragraph are as follows:

#### ~~SOCIAL NETWORK SURFING~~ LINK NAVIGATION METHOD

##### Background of the Invention

Knowledge of a person's personal social relationships is extremely useful for many reasons. If one knows that they and a stranger have a common friend or colleague, they can approach this new person with significant common ground and a strong reference. One can also use the knowledge of another's social relationships to find particular sorts of expertise. For example, if a first user was looking for help with particular type of technical patent, they could look up similar sorts of patents, determine the inventors and then see if any of the inventors were either close to them, or close to someone to whom they were close.